

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] In the past saddle stitched booklets were produced by processing the entire booklet at once. Referring to FIG. 1, reference numeral 10 generally indicates a stack of duplex printed sheets, arranged in order for binding. The sheets underlay each other and are squared off in registration. One or more staples 12 are driven along the center line 11 of the stack 10 of sheets. After the sheets are stapled, the entire stack is folded along the line formed by the staples. Once folded, the free ends of the sheets form two beveled edges 14, FIG. 2 because the outer sheets must wrap around the inner sheets. The inner sheets stick out and the outer sheets and cover, if any, appear to be shorter. Traditionally, the entire booklet is next trimmed inboard of the edge of the cover because the cover or the outermost sheet is the shortest sheet due to its having the longest wrap length. A heavy duty cutting apparatus 15 performs this trimming operation because the cut must be ~~mad~~ made through the ~~ntir~~ entire booklet typically 10 to 50 or more sheets. Reference numeral 16 generally indicates a finished, saddle stitched booklet with a finished, flat edge 17.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] FIGS. 6 and 7 provide the best overview of the saddle stitched booklet maker. With an automatic ~~sheet~~ sheet feeder 100, the machine shown represents an off-line booklet maker. An in-line version would take printed sheets from the output paper path of a printer. A stack 103 of duplex printed sheets is placed in an automatic sheet feeder 100. The sheet feeder loads the sheets, sheet-by-sheet, into

a paper drive assembly 140 that measures the width of each sheet. A cutter assembly 175 trims each sheet to a pre-determined width according to an algorithm. The paper drive assembly 140 next positions each sheet in a fold mechanism 210 that folds the sheets, sheet-by-sheet, along the center line of each sheet. The folded sheet is removed from the fold mechanism 210 by a booklet collection assembly 250 that stacks the sheets in registration on a an inverted V-shaped workpiece 259. The stack of sheets is thereafter stapled with a stapler 310 and then ejected by an ejection finger assembly 256 into a booklet unloader 330. The booklet unloader deposits the assembled saddle stitched booklets in the output trays 354.

Please replace paragraph [0095] with the following amended paragraph:

[0095] In particular, the saddle assembly 252, FIG. 23 includes a saddle 259 that is an elongate, movable bar or workpiece having an inverted V-shape that extends transversely across the booklet maker and acts to collect the sheets after each has been folded and prior to being stapled. The saddle 259 has a saddle peak 260 which is a sharp edge along the top margin of the saddle. The saddle peak is a datum that lines up the folds in the sheets. Each fold is indexed by the saddle peak and lines up along the saddle peak after leaving the fold mechanism 210, FIGS. 14 and 15. The saddle 259 also has an edge stop 261 against which all of the folded and stacked sheets are aligned before stapling. An arm on the stapler carriage, described below, tamps the sheets and squares the sheets against the edge stop 261. Along the saddle peak 260 are a series of anvils 262 against which the staples are pushed during stapling. The anvils clinch the tips of the staples together as the staples are driven into each booklet. The anvils are positioned to clinch two staples

together in smaller booklets and three staples in larger booklets. The saddle 259 translates back and forth along a pair of parallel, inclined, slider rods 264 which support the entire booklet collection assembly 250. The slider rods are stationary. The slider rods are inclined upward in the direction of the paper path indicated by the arrow 60 so that when the saddle 259 is moved toward the fold mechanism 210, FIG. 14, the saddle comes to rest at a location below and under the location of the fold in the sheet when the sheet is released from the fold blade 217, FIG. 22. In other words, the folded sheets come out of the fold mechanism, pass partially over the saddle 259, and come to rest aligned with the folds on the saddle peak 260. The saddle 259 as well as the secondary drive assembly 254 and the ejection finger assembly 256 are translated back and forth by a saddle drive motor 265 and a lead screw 266. The saddle drive motor is a DC servo motor actuated by the drive motor controller 362. The saddle moves in the direction indicated by the arrows 276 267 by the rotation of a lead screw 266 indicated by the arrow 268.